

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 18, 2002 (hereinafter "Office Action") rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 7-9, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,354,166 to De Crane. Claims 10 and 11 were also rejected as being unpatentable over De Crane.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-6, 13-17, 19 and 20. Applicant also appreciates the acknowledgement of the priority claim, approval of the formal drawings, and consideration of the two Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed.

In response to the Office Action, applicant requests amendment of independent Claims 1, 12 and 18, as provided herein. The amendments define the invention over the De Crane patent and all other prior art of record. The amendment to Claim 1 also overcomes the indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the foregoing, applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and requests issuance of a notice to that effect at an early date. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this application, she is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: April 9, 2003 Ryan Zet